



TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

October 18, 2010

TO: Internal File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor 

FROM: Ingrid Campbell, Lead 

RE: Amended Seed Mix, Andalex Resources, Centennial Mine, Permit #C/007/0019 and Task ID #3656

SUMMARY:

In September of 2010, the Division issued Andalex Resources a Notice of Violation for not controlling noxious weeds on two reclaimed well pads. This NOV was issued after a citizen complaint was received by the Division from the Landowner of the well pads. In order to abate the violation, the Division required Andalex to manually and chemically treat the weeds on the reclaimed pads and revegetate the area. The Division met with Dave Shaver from Andalex as well as the land owner, Dave Cave, to discuss the weed treatment and revegetation. As a result, Andalex revised the seedmix to use on the site at the request of the Division and landowner.

On October 14, 2010, the Division received an application to amend the reclamation seed mix for the centennial mine. This application is recommended for approval.

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TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

RECLAMATION PLAN

REVEGETATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 785.18, 817.111, 817.113, 817.114, 817.116; R645-301-244, -301-353, -301-354, -301-355, -301-356, -302-280, -302-281, -302-282, -302-283, -302-284.

Analysis:

Revegetation: General Requirements

The application consisted of a revised seed mix to be used for all interim and contemporaneous reclamation on the Gob Gas project sites and road slopes. The seed mix was revised from previous mixes by replacing Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*) and Sandberg bluegrass (*Poa Sanbergii*) with Crested Wheat grass (*Agropyron cristatum*) and Western Wheatgrass (*Pasocopyrum smithii*). Crested wheat grass and western wheatgrass appeared to be growing very well at a nearby reclaimed site. The seed mix was also revised to remove Mountain bid sagebrush (*Artemesia tridentata*) and White stem Rubber rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*). The surrounding area is heavily populated with sagebrush and the landowner constantly treats and removes the sagebrush to promote grass and forb communities for grazing. Removing these shrubs from the relatively small gas well pads would benefit wildlife and livestock grazing and promote plant diversity in the dominate sagebrush landscape.

Findings:

The information provided is considered adequate to meet the minimum regulatory requirements for this section.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

This application is recommended for approval.